

REMARKS

Claims 1-16, 21, 22, 27-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,933,605 to Kawano et al. (hereinafter, "Kawano") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,108,706 to Birdwell et al. (hereinafter, "Birdwell"). By this amendment, claims 1, 8 and 27 are amended as to matter of form without adding any new subject matter. The method of claim 1 calls for assigning an individual identifier to a set of clients, assigning a group identifier to a subset of clients within the set of clients, and enabling a first client in the set to determine whether a message is sent to the first client or to the subset. However, the cited references, i.e., the Kawano reference and the Birdwell reference in combination or individually fails to render claim 1 obvious to one of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.

The Kawano reference simply teaches filtering multicast messages transmitted between subnetworks based upon the message content. In the Kawano arrangement, an address identifies a position of a computer in transmission lines and another address identifies position of a transmission line in a network having many transmission lines. There is no individual identifier assigned to a set of clients, as claimed in claim 1. Instead, two different addresses are used for two different purposes none of which teaches the claimed limitation. As such, no single individual identifier is assigned to a set of clients.

Claim 1 further includes the limitation, "assigning a group identifier to a subset of the clients within the set of clients." Pursuant to the remarks presented above in the context of the first limitation, Kawano fails to teach or suggest this feature as well. That is, there is no subset of clients within the set of clients (which are assigned individual identifiers) that is assigned a group identifier. In contrast, a computer group name information about a computer group is merely registered to transmit addresses as transmission destination address. Thus, assignment of a group identifier, as claimed in claim 1, is missing.

The Birdwell reference calls for a transmission announcement system and method for announcing upcoming data transmissions over a broadcast network. In claim 1, a first client in the set of clients is enabled to determine whether a message is sent to the first client or to the subset of the clients within the set of clients. This test that determines to whom the message is sent, i.e., to a particular client or a subset of clients is absent in the Birdwell reference. Without the teaching of such a test in view of the two assignments claimed in claim 1, the claimed

combination does not result regardless of the two cited references considered together or separately. Therefore, the § 103 rejection of claim 1 is not established because a *prima facie* case is not made out since the cited references do not render claim 1 obvious. For the reasons stated above, claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom are in condition for allowance. Based on the similar reasons, independent claim 8 the claims depending therefrom are also in condition to allowance.

The method of claim 15 includes providing at least two agents on a client, assigning a different address to each of the agents, determining whether a method received by the client is addressed to one of the agents. None of these limitations are rendered obvious in light of the Kawano and Birdwell references applied together or separately, especially in view of the arguments presented above in the context of claim 1.

Neither the Kawano reference or the Birdwell reference teaches providing at least two agents on a client. A different address is not assigned to each of the agents either. There is no teaching whatsoever for determining whether a message received by the client is addressed to one of the two agents. Accordingly, claim 15 and the claims depending therefrom are not *prima facie* obvious.

The independent claim 21 is an article comprising a medium storing instructions that enable a processor-based system to accomplish the three limitations of claim 15. As indicated above, for the reasons that patentably distinguish claim 15 in light of the cited art, claim 21 is also in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the §103 rejection of claim 15 and claim 21 and the corresponding dependent claims.

With regard to claim 30 which is directed to a system comprising a processor-based device and a storage coupled to the device storing instructions that enable the processor-based device to handle at least two agents on a client, assign a different address to each of the agents and determine whether a message received by the client is addressed to one of the two agents, no teaching or suggestion whatsoever is disclosed in the cited references. In other words, a messaging system that enables a server to assign unique identifiers to a plurality of clients where the identifiers enable a client to determine whether a message is specifically targeted to that client or as an alternate whether the client is a member of a group of targeted clients is not taught

Application No. 09/652,168  
Amendment dated December 17, 2003  
Reply to Office Action of November 5, 2003

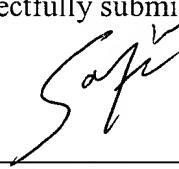
or suggested by the Kawano and Birdwell references. In this manner, the system of claim 30 is not rendered obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the relevant art.

Claims 17-20 and 23-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the Kawano reference, in view of the Birdwell reference and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,009,274 to Fletcher et al. (hereinafter, "Fletcher"). In accordance with the remarks presented in the context of claim 1, the applicant respectfully submits that the § 103 *prima facie* rejection of these claims is not made out based on the cited art, absent a specific rational to combine in the references itself. Accordingly, claims 17-20 and 22-26 are allowable. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider all pending claims.

In view of these amendments and remarks, the application is now in condition for allowance and the Examiner's prompt action in accordance therewith is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 12/17/03

  
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